Numb. 3287

# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Monday May 10. to Thursday May 13. 1697

*Genoua, April* 28. N. S.

WE have Advice from *Provence*, that they are fitting out 20 Galleys at *Marseilles*, and several Men of War at *Toulon*, which are thought to be designed for *Catalonia*.

*Leghorne, April* 29. On the 26th Instant departed hence the *Good-Success*, Capt. *William Wilson*, and the *Sicilian* Galley, *George Baily*, for *Alexandria*. The *Herne*, *Tuscany*, and *Chiesly* Galleys, arrived at *Scanderoon* about the middle of *February*. Two of the Great Dukes Galleys sailed hence this week, being bound to *Barcelona* with the Count *de Harach*, the Emperor's Envoy Extraordinary to the King of *Spain*, but they came into Port again upon notice that several Algerines are cruising on this Coast. We hear that some others of these Corsairs have landed lately near *Civita-Vecchia*, and at other Places, where they committed what spoil they could, and carried away divers of the Inhabitants.

*Venice, May* 3. Another Convoy is preparing here for the *Levant*, and may be ready to sail in 8 or 10 days; The last Letters from those parts give an account, that the Captain-General would begin the Campagne about the middle of this month. The Senate have made choice of Signior *Erizzo*, at present their Ambassador at the French Court, to go with the same Character to that of *Rome*, and reside there.

*Vienna, May* 4. The Elector of *Saxony* will depart hence in 10 days or a fortnight for *Hungary*; The Imperial Forces are in the mean time marching to the place of Rendezvous; They write from *Croatia*, that the German Troops in those parts, with the Militia of the Country, are drawing together in order to besiege the Fortress of *Bihatz*, which is a considerable Pass, and the Count *d'Aversberg* is gone hence, being to command in this Expedition. The Bishop of *Passau*, the Emperor's Ambassador, begun his Journey to *Poland* some days ago. The Prince *de Commercy* is arrived here from *Flanders*.

*Francfort, May* 12. Prince *Lewis* of *Baden* was expected at *Heilbron* on the 10th Instant, near which Place the Confederate Forces are drawing together; A flying Camp is forming by the Allies near *Mentz* under the Command of the Count *de Styrum*. The Allies have given over working on the Lines, which they begun lately along the *Neckar*. The French Troops continue to assemble near *Landaw*.

*Cologne, May* 14. The Deputies of the Circle of *Westphalia*, who had lately a meeting here, are gone home, and have appointed another in *November* next; The Quota of 12000 Men which this Circle is to provide for the Service of the Empire, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, Elector *Palatine*, and Bishop of *Munster*, have agreed to furnish at this time, and the other Members of the said Circle are to pay them a Sum of Money in lieu of the Troops they ought to raise on this Occasion.

*Hamburgh, May* 14. Letters from *Warsaw* of the 30th past say, the General of the Confederated Forces in *Poland* had issued Orders for the said Troops, which lay then dispersed in Quarters, to Rendezvous on the 10th of this month at a place about 3 miles from *Lemberg*; and there was a talk as if they intended to march towards *Warsaw* against the time of the Election.

*Paris, May* 13. The Forces are now every where in motion to open the Campagne; 'Tis said the French will besiege some Place in *Flanders*, whilst they have drawn their greatest Strength; and that they will act only Defensively on the *Rhine*. They write from *Perpignan*, that the Troops which the Duke *de Vendosme* is to command in *Catalonia*, would be at their Rendezvous by the 16th or 17th of this month, and that they would make an Army of about 30000 Men. The Sieur *Magnon* is sailed from *Rochefort* with 3 or 4 Ships to join the Marquis *de Nesmond*, who departed from *Brest* the 29th of the last month; They talk of fitting out another Squadron to be commanded by Monsieur *de Chasteaurenaut*. Great Precautions are used to secure our Coasts from being insulted by the Enemy, and the Militia of the Maritime Provinces are ordered to be raised, and to be posted in such Places as may be most convenient for this purpose. Monsieur *Chasteauneuf*, the French Ambassador at *Constantinople*, has obtained Leave to return home, and the Sieur *Ferriol*, who is at present in *Turkey*, is appointed his Successor. They talk here of laying a Tax upon Coaches, and to borrow Two Millions of Livres on the Town House of *Paris*, and several other Projects are under consideration to raise Money, of which they are in great want to supply the Publick Expences; all the Revenues falling extreamly short of what they used to produce, by reason of the great Misery and Desolation which the present War has occasioned in all the Provinces of this Kingdom. We have an account from *Britany*, that some of our Enemies Ships have fallen in with a Fleet of 80 French Vessels laden with Wine and Salt, and have taken or destroyed many of them, together with a Frigat laden with Bombs and Ammunition for *Dunkirke*.

*Brussels, May* 15. The French Forces assemble in 3 Bodies; One near *Courtray* under the Command of Mareschal *Catinat*; another near *Mons* under Mareschal *Villeroy*, and the third about *Maubeuge*, which is to be Commanded by Mareschal *Boufflers*. They have summoned in a great number of Pioneers, and a great Train of Artillery was expected yesterday in the Camp near *Courtray*. The Forces of the Allies continue in their Camps at *Bon Seigneur Isaac*, and at *Denise*, and Monsieur *d'Auverquerke*, with the English Horse, is on his march this way from *Flanders*, to join the former commanded by the Prince *de Vaudemont*. The Elector of *Bavaria* continues still at *Ghent*.

*Zuistein, May* 17. His Majesty, God be Thank'd, continues very well, and intends to leave this Place on Monday next, and to go directly to the Army. We have Advice from *Flanders*, that the French Forces move towards *Aeth*, as if they designed to besiege that Place.

*Hague, May* 17. N. S. On Wednesday the Ambassadors of both sides met again at *Ryswick*, and several Rules were agreed on about the Ceremonials, which are mostly the same that were observed at the Treaty of *Nimeguen*; The Mediator desired the several Ministers to give in their Proposals, which they will begin to do at the meeting to morrow. The Fleet of Dutch Merchant Ships from *St. Ubes* and *Cadiz*, arrived on Wednesday last in the *Texel*, with the Men of War their Convoys. Monsieur *Plessi*, Ambassador from the King of *Denmark*, arrived here yesterday in the Evening.

*From on Board the* Sterling-Castle *Riding at* Scilly, May 7. On the 25th of the last Month His Majesty's Ship the *Sterling-Castle*, Capt. *Barker* Commander, with the *Berwick*, and *Joseph* Fireship, sailed from *St. Antonio*, bound to *England*, having under their Convoy 11 Sail of Merchant Ships, *viz.* 6 English and 5 Dutch, besides the *Britannia* Victualler, and a French Prize laden from *Martenico*, which Captain *Barker* took the 15th of *March* in his Voyage outward. On the 29th in the morning, being about 60 Leagues to the Westward of *St. Antonio*, we saw a Sail to Windward bearing down to us, to whom the *Berwick* gave chace, and came almost up with her about Noon, at which time 3 Sail more appearing in sight to Windward, the *Berwick* upon a Signal from Capt. *Barker*, gave over chace, and returned to the Fleet; These 3 Ships joined the other, and then all 4 bore down to us, and so kept us Company all night; The next morning we saw another Sail a-stern, who also joined the 4 former, and all of them came up near to us, whereupon we shewed our Colours, and they hoisted French Colours; and several Signals were made on Board the Commander of them, to whom the other Ships Boats went very frequently; We got in a readiness to engage them, and Capt. *Barker* made a Signal for 4 of the biggest Merchant Ships to draw with the *Berwick* into a Line of Battle; About Noon the Enemies Consultations being ended, they all 5 bore down to us within Gun-shot, two of them were Ships of about 70 Guns each, the 3 other carried 50, 30, and 20 Guns; Capt. *Barker* fired several Shot at them, and particularly at the Commander, who thereupon immediately hoist up without Gun-shot; They continued to keep us Company till the 2d Instant, when being about 10 Leagues to the Westward of *Ushant* at 4 in the morning, and the French being to Windward, and having a fresh Gale at South, they all bore down again almost within Gun-shot of us,